

has served my office and the people of Colorado for 14 years, and she has done so with grace and conviction. She will be leaving my office in January 2005.

Carol began her career working out of my Fort Collins Congressional office, and later, the Senate offices in Greeley and Loveland. As Area Director, she managed the office and provided dedicated service on a variety of issues, including housing and healthcare. Carol was instrumental in establishing the Fall River Visitor Center at Rocky Mountain National Park, the acquisition of Cherokee Park by the Forest Service, and many other smaller projects that have greatly benefitted our public lands and will lead to greater enjoyment by the public. She was passionate about historic preservation and worked tirelessly on behalf of many worthwhile interests, including the historic Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad in Southern Colorado. Her presence on Team Allard will be missed and I know the Northern Colorado community will miss her as well. Carol was a hard working and earnest friend and employee.

My wife, Joan, joins me in thanking her for dedication and loyalty. We both wish her and her husband Jack the best in their future endeavors.●

HONORING WALTER THAYER, JR., MD, OF RHODE ISLAND HOSPITAL

● Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to recognize the retirement of an extraordinary Rhode Islander, Dr. Walter Thayer.

Walter Thayer was born in East Providence in 1929—back when there were farms in what is now an urban area. He graduated from Providence College and left for Tufts University Medical School in 1950. He returned to Rhode Island in 1965 to become the first Director of the Gastroenterology Division of Brown Medical School and Rhode Island Hospital after having worked at the National Institutes of Health, Georgetown, and Yale University School of Medicine.

Dr. Thayer's professional qualifications are outstanding. He served for 30 years as the Chief of Gastroenterology at Brown University and affiliated hospitals, and has been a professor at Brown since 1972; he was the Head of Gastroenterology at Rhode Island Hospital from 1965 to 1994 and continued as a practicing physician until this year. He has been presented with the Distinguished Clinician Award by the American Gastroenterology Association, the Humanitarian of the Year Award by both the Rhode Island and New England Chapters of the Crohns Colitis Foundation of America, and the W.W. Keene Award for Contribution to Brown Medical School. Walter has presented at the Quadrennial Lecture on Crohns Disease at the Third World Congress in Copenhagen, and served as the chairman of the NIH-NFIC Sponsored Symposium on Infectious Agents in Inflammatory Bowel Diseases and as the

Governor for Rhode Island to the American College of Gastroenterology.

One of the great ironies is that Walter, who became such a fixture at Brown Medical School and trained and mentored so many fine physicians there, so desired to attend Brown University and was not admitted. Indeed, his experience in the world outside of Brown and the Ivy League was one of the factors that made him such a valuable bridge between town and gown between patient care and academic research.

This bridging between patient care and academic research is a key facet of Dr. Thayer's career. His true caring and empathy for his patients informed his extensive research. That research, where Walter sought to understand the causes of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, and find effective treatments to these and other debilitating gastrointestinal illnesses, has been remarkable and extensive, and has garnered Walter national and international renown.

To honor Dr. Thayer's service to the health and academic communities in Rhode Island, many of those whom Walter has affected, including mentors, colleagues, students and patients, gathered on October 7 to wish him well in his life in retirement, and to thank him for his service, dedication, caring, and friendship. At that time, one colleague said that Walter had earned the highest respect a doctor could earn—his colleagues would refer their family members to him. He was described as the father of gastroenterology in Rhode Island, someone who is a masterful teacher and had great love for his patients. Dr. Jose Behar said that Walter's patients trusted him so completely that when Dr. Behar would treat one of them, perhaps when Walter was on vacation, they would invariably ask him "Do you think Dr. Thayer would agree with you?" Dr. Behar said that as an accomplished doctor having his treatments questioned so bluntly was a little off-putting, but he came to realize that it did not stem from a lack of confidence in him as much as the patients' remarkable level of trust, respect and belief in Walter.

To only speak of his professional life, however, is to miss a great deal about Walter. He is someone who is constantly curious, as is demonstrated by the fact that even now, well beyond the age of 70, he finds himself back in school pursuing an associate's degree in wildflower ecology. He has a great love of books, and is often found in his favorite chair, his glasses perched on his nose, a great book open in his hands. He is extremely active—he has run triathlons, marathons, and he spends many winter hours cross-country skiing. And he is a loving husband, father, and friend.

He sincerely cares about issues far from the realm of medicine, important social issues, and tries to address them in a real and admirable fashion. For example, as his children were growing up,

he did not want them to only have knowledge of the city, so one summer he took his kids to an Amish farm and they all worked on that farm. He did not want his children to grow up isolated from questions of race, and made many efforts to bring them into close contact with families and children of different races and ethnicities.

Now, even though Dr. Thayer is officially retired, he continues his long volunteer service at the Veterans Affairs hospital and in his teaching at Brown University. He is looking forward to the opening of the new infectious bowel disease research laboratory that will open at Rhode Island Hospital—which will be named "The Walter R. Thayer Inflammatory Bowel Disease Laboratory." What a fitting honor that this new, state-of-the-art research laboratory will be named for him.

Walter leaves behind a remarkable legacy. I know my colleagues join me in saluting him on his well-deserved retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO HELEN CHAMBERS HUNT

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish to remember the life of one of Alabama's finest First Ladies, Helen Chambers Hunt, the wife of former Gov. Guy Hunt. Miss Helen, as she was known, was a gracious and caring woman, who carried out her duties as First Lady with charm and compassion, and she will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

I was honored to get to personally know this wonderful lady. Governor Hunt told me once of a lady who had seen Mrs. Hunt walk across the stage. The lady said to him, "I can tell she is a fine lady and you must be a fine person too." It was true. Her very countenance and carriage projected an aura of faith, compassion and humility. The Governor was so very proud of her and so were the people of Alabama. In all her gifts and graces she represented the highest of Alabama values.

Miss Helen grew up in the Birdsong community in Cullman County. She met Guy Hunt, the future Governor of Alabama, during high school, when they started dating. They met at church and their first date was to a drive-in movie. They were married in 1950, when Helen was only 16 years old and Guy was 17. The Hunts were blessed with four wonderful children—Pam, Sherrie, Keith and Lynn.

Miss Helen enjoyed cooking and sewing and also spending time with her husband at their Holly Pond home. She stood with him through two terms as Cullman County Probate Judge as well as his tenure as Governor from 1987–1993. Although she did not seek the spotlight, as First Lady she embraced a campaign to reduce littering along Alabama highways that resulted in the creation of the highly successful Adopt-a-Mile Program. She also was a wonderful hostess at the Governor's Mansion, organizing numerous dinners,